

## The Colored American

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N. W., Washington, D. C.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

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All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere.—Send for instructions.

### ADVERTISING RATES.

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EDWARD E. COOPER, Manager,

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SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1903.

### OUR MANLY PRESIDENT.

Whenever an utterance comes from President Roosevelt touching our race his words ring true. Here is what he said in his speech at Springfield, Illinois, in allusion to the presence in the audience of Company H, 8th Illinois National Guards, composed of colored men:

"It seems to me eminently fitting that the guard around the tomb of Lincoln should be composed of colored soldiers. It was my own good fortune at Santiago to serve beside colored troops. A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterward.

"More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have."

His manliness and fine courage are the secrets of his unprecedented popularity with the American people, while they make him the despair of professional politicians and opportunists.

The Tampa Intelligencer, of Tampa, Fla., a little pot-metal paper of no influence whatever, but filled with the well-known African venom against everything and everybody colored who is a success, has joined the croakers against Booker T. Washington and his marvelous career and achievements. Incidentally the puerile editor pays his respects to The Colored American. We yet survive, however, and we continue to stand where we have always stood as to historical Tuskegee and as to the unapproachable leader of its destinies. The Intelligencer excites only pity for its narrowness and ignorance.

We are giving the readers of The Colored American a newsy, clean-cut, up-to-date newspaper, and if the agents and delinquent subscribers would do their part in paying up they would help the paper and it would be improved and enlarged in every way. Now is the time to settle up.

### THE COLOR LINE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The Independent, of Pittsburg, Pa., in a recent issue has a moving lament over the difficulty experienced by colored people without distinction of condition and class in renting houses either in Pittsburg or Allegheny.

We cordially sympathize with the Independent. The identical, if not worse, condition exists right here in Washington. Every subterfuge is resorted to, no inquiry into one's ability to pay is made, and no attempt to ascertain one's reputation for caring properly for previously rented houses is undertaken. Often in a long list of houses for rent published in the daily papers one finds an asterisk opposite the description of each of two or three properties, and at the end of the advertisement the asterisk is explained "these houses may be rented by colored people." We have grown too wise, however, to look them up. They are invariably worn out, out of repair, the former abodes of disreputable characters or such as no decent white family would occupy. Yet it is generally conceded that the Negro is an excellent tenant, prompt paying and careful in keeping the property in order and more often than otherwise making repairs of a minor character at his own expense without calling on landlord or agent for them.

The statement often made that white tenants will move out if a colored family moves in the immediate neighborhood is false, as we all know, for what self-respecting colored family has failed to make delightful acquaintance with their white neighbors when accident makes them such?

It is most interesting to record the fact, as showing the substantial progress the race is making in acquiring the real, essential things of this practical world, that at the dinner given to Dr. Washington, of Tuskegee, recently in New York City, there sat down with him colored men representing more than \$400,000 worth of real estate. The New York City colored men have set a fine example anyhow, to our people elsewhere in voluntarily subscribing and promptly paying also the amount necessary to provide two scholarships at Tuskegee. These men have fully absorbed and digested the philosophy of that wise old ex-slave who said that the best friends he had were not the white men of the country, but God and a dollar bill.

The announcement is made that the vacant office of President of Howard University has been filled by the Board of Trustees in the selection of Dr. John Gordon, a man of much scholarship, an author of some note, and at present the head of Tabor College, Tabor, Iowa. We do not know, aside from his conceded great learning, what special qualifications Dr. Gordon has for the peculiarly trying duties of this position, nor in what manner he has heretofore demonstrated his sympathy with the high aims of the University, but we have confidence in the wisdom of the Board of Trustees and we hope for the best. In common with all other race lovers we watch with jealous eye every act and movement affecting the interests of this great institution of learning which is so close to our hearts and which is performing so vast a volume of good for our people and without seeking to depreciate the prospective usefulness of Dr. Gordon we cannot refrain from expressing our profound regret that some cultured and representative colored man like Dr. Grimke or Prof. Kelly Miller was not selected to preside over the destinies of this honored institution.

The great expense incident to the publication of The Colored American forces us to reduce our exchange list. Many of our contemporaries who have heretofore enjoyed the exchange privilege cannot be carried any longer on the exchange list.

### EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA.

We have watched with sympathetic interest the attitude of Prof. Inman E. Page, President of the Langston University, Oklahoma Territory, during the bitter and unwarranted attacks which for some time past have been made upon his management of that institution and upon him personally with the declared purpose to cause his removal, and our admiration for the man has increased greatly as we have noted his dignified and manly course. The eventuation has justified our predictions. The Governor of the State, who has the power of appointment, has peremptorily refused to remove the professor, and Langston University will continue to enjoy his almost invaluable services.

The allegations of the Professor's incompetency and of absolute methods create only amusement in this part of the country and farther east as well, where the solid qualities and thorough educational qualifications of Mr. Page are perfectly well known and highly commended. We congratulate the people of the Territory, the students of the University, and the race in general over the outcome. One of the most admirable features of the episode which must appeal to the tenderest sensibilities of Prof. Page was the active loyalty and support accorded to him by the really influential men of the Territory. Eminent among them and indeed the leader of the movement in his defense was Mr. John C. Leftwich the editor of that sterling race journal, "The Western World," a man of brains, power and influence. He appreciated the value of Prof. Page, and with voice and pen and his great personality he soon put to rout the "titmice" who emerged from their native obscurity only long enough to exhibit an undraped base and to point the moral of the commanding influence of a really worthy and powerful newspaper like the World. We felicitate Prof. Page, but tender to Editor Leftwich the sentiment of our higher and most distinguished consideration.

The Voice of Missions, the mission journal of the A. M. E. Church, is one of the neatest quarterlies that come to this office. The June number contains a full-page portrait of Bishop H. M. Turner, the Senior Bishop of his church, with smaller portraits of Bishop Shaffer and Arnett and is brim full of literature of mission works and is a thing of beauty.

### CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.

The Czar of Russia administers a neat and effective rebuke to the hysterical Americans who have bombarded his government with offers of assistance to the persecuted Jews of his Empire and with resolutions of condemnation or protest touching the treatment accorded these people by the Russian authorities. He tells his critics and these would-be philanthropists that he is quite solvent—quite able to afford any needed financial or other relief and that he must decline to accept any outside suggestions as to how he shall govern his people Jews or Gentiles.

The Czar was right. What hypocrisy these Americans exhibit, anyhow. Has it ever occurred to them to consider how they appear from the coign of vantage occupied by an intelligent European mind as they go blundering about the world like a modern Don Quixote with their gratuitous sympathy, seeking to right the wrong, real or imaginary, of all foreign people? It is wholly apart from the question whether the Jews have been cruelly treated in Russia. The Czar answers the American snivel by a diplomatic reminder that America has troubles enough of her own to occupy her undivided attention for many years to come. What effrontery, to reproach any government for cruelty or inhumanity to any section of its citizens or subjects, with the history of American brutality and ingratitude to the Negro in the hands of every European school child!

The Jews in Russia perform no civ-

ic duties. They do not bear arms in defense of the State. They are not encouraged to cultivate patriotism. It has been repeatedly stated by qualified authority that they are shrewd and successful traders, easily outwitting the sluggish Russian peasant; that in an incredibly short time after the arrival of a Jew in any community he has nearly every family in his debt or under obligations to him, and we believe our recollection is correct when we state that not many years ago the Russian government issued an imperial edict defining the extent to which trading with the Jews would be permitted and restricting the amount of money involved in any transaction to an almost inappreciable amount.

All this is no excuse, we know, for murder or brutality, but the recital is made to show how radically different is the condition of the Jew in Russia from that of the American Negro. Our blood has been shed and our lives bravely yielded up in every contest waged by the country for its life, for conquest or for human liberty. Will the muse of history tell of a more heroic act than that of the American Negro when he sprang to arms in 1863 at the call of Abraham Lincoln, without promises or conditions, ignorant even then whether the issue of the war of the rebellion meant his absolute freedom? Has he ever faltered at his country's call?

In civil life has he not been industrious, law abiding, ambitious for his children, patient under humiliation, peaceful even amid the loose and unbridled passion of his white neighbors, sincerely religious, trusting in God? What has made the great South country blossom as the rose but the stout bone, the sturdy sinew and the unrequited labor of the Negro?

Do white Americans comprehend their debt to the black race in this country? Are they aware of the depth and breadth, the volume of gratitude they owe to our forbears for so marvelously increasing the wealth of this favored land?? And how have they requited him? Ask the Trades Unions! Seek information from mercantile houses! Search the records of lynching bees! He is burned at the stake for the mere suspicion of crime. Our children are hiding about our streets because every avenue of honorable employment is shut fast in their faces. Our criminal records are increasing and are made a reproach to us, when the blind zealots of prejudice know in their own hearts that idleness is the father of crime and that they make the Negro idle.

Look at the testimony furnished by nearly every city—the weary, humiliating and so often futile search for decent habitations. Think of the iniquities of Southern legislation and the spread of Jim Crowism like a malignant contagious disease throughout that section and right in the doors of the Capitol of the Nation.

The white American who sympathizes so earnestly with foreign people and is oblivious of the greater evils permitted in his own country would do well to sit down and chew the bitter cud of reflection over his rebukes from crowned heads, and when next his redundant sympathy needs an outlet or a safety valve he will find ample opportunity for its exercise in joining hands with those who could mete out justice to that loyal native born son of America, the Negro.

The local howl against the appointment of Ex-Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, to the bench of the District judiciary has ceased almost completely among the colored brethren. The new Justice, by his patience, unwavering courtesy, and consideration for the colored people, lawyer and prisoner alike, is winning golden opinions and we predict he will be confirmed next winter, hands down. If he made a mistake in the Vick case he has already atoned for it amply. The bar and layman alike are confident he will prove a valuable acquisition to the bench, for he is both learned in the law and knows how to temper justice with mercy.